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Campaigner 'passionate' about protecting hospital services

## TRIBUTES TO 'A MAN OF THE PEOPLE'



Campaigner Don Wilkes

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

TRIBUTES have paid to a "passionate" and "enthusiastic" campaigner who fought for years to protect services at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

Valley Road resident Don Wilkes died last week after a recent battle with heart disease.

Mr Wilkes has been a hero to North Oxfordshire residents as a tireless member of campaign group Keep The Horton General since its launch a decade ago.

The group, which meets every two weeks, has campaigned for key services to remain at the hospital, including maternity and paediatrics.

Group member Peter Fisher, from Banbury, said Mr Wilkes was "very much a man of the people".

He added: "Don did not have a health background but he was very passionate about the Horton and its services.

"He was an enthusiastic campaigner and always wanted to do something positive to encourage us to get our message out there.

"Everyone who knew him never had a bad word to say about him and there is no doubt that we shall miss him."

Speaking about the group's campaign, he said there was always a danger that hospital services could come under threat from changes in local and national health policy.



Banbury's Horton Hospital

He said the group would always strive to make sure any proposals to change the hospital were brought before public at the earliest stage possible so locals could have their say.

Fellow member Peter Burrows joined the group in 2007, and said he immediately "hit it off" with Mr Wilkes.

He added: "It was strange because we were totally different people but we became a bit of a double act.

"First and foremost Don was an activist, he was someone who wanted to do things.

"It meant, though, that he wasn't always the best at being diplomatic."

Keith Strangwood took over as the group's chairman in 2013.

He said the campaigners were "like a family" and that Mr Wilkes would be badly missed.

He added: "Don didn't show his age and had lots of energy in abundance.

"He was a voice for the group and he was very active at the same time. If we were holding a public meeting he would be straight out on the street giving out flyers and getting us support."

In November last year, the group received assurances from health leaders that no changes would be made to services at the Horton.

Mr Strangwood told the *Banbury Cake* at the time that he was pleased with the outcome, and that the result had been "forward looking".

Plans were also revealed in March to add a two-storey extension to the hospital's CT scanner building.

It would feature a new examination room, waiting area, pre-injection room and toilets.

The scheme, which also includes an external access stairway and bridge to the first-floor roof plant room, is due to be decided by Cherwell District Council's planning committee by Wednesday, May 4.

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## Concern over cemetery car race blight

CARS racing round cemeteries and concerns over trees being cut down are among the complaints made to Banbury Town Council's parks and open spaces officers in the first three months of this year.

The team received 21 complaints between January 19 and March 8, down from 26 received during the same period last year.

The biggest concerns for residents were about trees, with nine complaints being made, including three about Oxfordshire County Council cutting down trees at the rear of Stroud Close.

Town council recreation and amenities manager Mike Hall said the council had also received a complaint about the "improper use" of one of the cemeteries.

He said: "It seems some people had been meeting up in the cemetery before going on somewhere, and they seem to have been driving around playing tag."

Two other concerns were raised about issues with cemeteries, with one saying that items had been moved off a grave but had been put back. The other referred to a memorial, with relatives thinking it had been knocked down, but it had been laid down by council staff as a precaution against it falling.

## Festive funding provides boost

SANTA is still bringing Banbury some festive joy, after more than £2,000 raised at his grotto was donated to the Banbury Cross Round Table.

Castle Quay Shopping Centre donated £2,795 to the charity, which helps fund and support local charities and organisations in Banbury and the surrounding area.

The Banbury Cross Round Table provided the Santa's Grotto to the shopping centre throughout December and in this time, Santa met more than 600 children and gave out presents.

Paul Jackson, centre manager at Castle Quay Shopping Centre added: "The Round Table grotto is always a big hit with local children and families and they do great work in the local community."

Ian Swaysland, of Banbury Cross Round Table, said he wanted to thank the community for its generosity and support for the grotto.

He said: "These funds will go back into the local community to support some very deserving causes which makes these donations all the more important and meaningful."

## Parish matters

VILLAGERS are invited to attend the next meeting of Bloxham Parish Council on Monday, April 4, at St Mary's Parish Rooms in the village.

The session will start at 7.30pm and councillors will discuss latest parish news, spending and planning applications.

Bloxham Annual Parish Meeting will be held this year on Thursday, April 14, from 7.30pm at Jubilee Hall in the village, where councillors will discuss the previous year's spending and plans for the next 12 months.

# Campaigner's defibrillator database plans

AN OXFORDSHIRE ambulance commander who has installed more than 400 public defibrillators in the county has switched gears to take his campaign forward.

Dick Tracey has now said he needs shops, offices and businesses who have private defibrillators on site to tell him about them to complete his database.

That means that when someone calls 999 to report a cardiac arrest, the ambulance service will be able to tell them if a life could be saved by going to the hotel down the street.

Mr Tracey said: "It would be awful to think somebody could go into cardiac arrest when there is a defibrillator 30 seconds away."

"We know where every single public access defibrillator is in Oxfordshire, so the plea I have got is if your club, organisation or company has bought a defibrillator for their staff, please tell me about it."

"In that moment of anxiety when someone is in cardiac arrest, people could forget that cabinet that has been in the corner for five years – but if we know about it, we can remind them."

Mr Tracey, who works for South Central Ambulance Service, launched his campaign to ensure no-one in Oxfordshire was more than 10 minutes away from a public defibrillator in June 2014.

In the following year 200 more were installed throughout the county.

Those units are now saving lives: across Oxfordshire, Mr Tracey said the ambulance service uses one of those defibrillators to try to save the life of someone having a cardiac arrest two or three times every week.

Every defibrillator has been made possible by donations from parish councils, community groups, charities or individuals.

Mr Tracey said he had still had more parish councils coming forward to buy a cabinet for their village, but he said he had put some defibrillators in more unusual places including a historic church porch and a few old



Dick Tracey, of South Central Ambulance Service, with a defibrillator

red telephone boxes. He and his team are also still offering free first aid classes to all businesses and organisations in the county, and they are also fundraising for a mobile

classroom to offer public demonstrations in market places and at large events.

Contact Mr Tracey via email on richard.tracey@scas.nhs.uk and find

out more about the campaign including a map of Oxfordshire's public defibrillators at southcentralambulance.nhs.uk/campaigns/startaheart.ashx.

# MP stands by vote to oppose plans for HS2

Work on high speed rail link is likely to start next year after majority of more than 350 choose to pass bill in Commons

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

VICTORIA Prentis has spoken out about why she voted against plans for the new high speed rail link, despite a bill being passed by a majority of more than 350 in the commons last week.

The Banbury MP, who has long opposed the HS2 scheme, said allowing construction to begin would mean years of "significant disruption" to residents.

Her opposition to the scheme came as fellow MPs voted to pass the bill on Wednesday by a majority of 399 to 42, meaning work is likely to begin next year on the link between London and Birmingham.

Speaking ahead of the debate, Mrs Prentis said: "HS2 brings us nothing but eight years of significant disruption, followed by permanent dissection."

"It will destroy beautiful habi-

tats, ancient woodlands and pasture."

"Its construction will cause traffic gridlock to Banbury."

"If it were to give others the connectivity and economic success we enjoy, we might try to grin and bear it."

"But I can't look my constituents in the eye and tell them it is for the greater good."

It was previously reported that thousands of heavy goods vehicle journeys could be made through North Oxfordshire villages each day while construction is ongoing. Villagers in Wardington started their own campaign group and spoke in front of a HS2 select committee on January 18.

The MP added: "Most tragically it is bad for the environment."

"Over 130 wildlife sites on the first stage will be affected by the work, including 10 sites of special scientific interest, an area of outstanding natural beauty and 50 ancient woodlands."

"It is supposed to encourage passengers to give up more carbon intensive forms of transport, but HS2 Ltd's own projections suggest a shift of only 11 per cent from car or air to high-speed rail."

"My successor in 30 years' time will look at HS2, if it goes ahead, and see only division, noise and disruption, and no significant benefits gained for the rest of the country."

Following their meeting, the HS2 committee advised that HS2 Ltd should look to reduce the volume of excavated material needed at Lower Boddington.

They also suggested that an alternative "conveyor" route to carry spoil could be created along the A43.

Amendments to the bill included making sure local authorities affected by the link are given expenses to cover lost business rates.

The bill will be passed to the House of Lords before it becomes law.



Victoria Prentis has been a long term opponent of the HS2 scheme



Nutrition expert offers alternative to the health concerns posed by products like breakfast biscuits and cereal bars

Dr Adrian Massey has developed a new cereal-based breakfast drink to battle the epidemic of sugary breakfast foods



# Cereal drinks range to fight sugar 'crisis'

Joe Gammie  
jgammie@nqo.com

A NUTRITION expert from North Oxfordshire has launched his line of cereal drinks as part of a fight against high-sugar breakfasts.

Dr Adrian Massey has created three breakfast drinks which he says have all the equivalent nutrients of a bowl of wholegrain cereal but with less than three per cent sugar.

The Oxford Brookes graduate said he was inspired to create his C'go cereal drinks after working in the corporate food industry for 14 years.

He warned that high levels of sugar in breakfast products was a health "crisis" waiting to happen.

Dr Massey added: "Breakfast biscuits and cereal bars are packed full of sug-

ar, sometimes exceeding 40 per cent.

"Seeing how these food companies behave struck a chord with me - it's a crisis just waiting to happen."

Dr Massey, who lives in Hanwell, began experimenting with C'go products 18 months ago, and left his job in October to pursue the business full time.

He orders wheat, barley and oats which is ground down at a factory and returned to his kitchen.

There Dr Massey mixes the grains with flavours - real bananas, real chocolate or vanilla flavouring - before adding milk, preparing it in a pressure cooker then bottling it.

He said each 250ml bottle contained less than three per cent sugar - the equivalent of a sugar cube - and was smooth enough to be drunk through a straw.

Dr Massey has secured agreements with shops in Banbury as well as the

League of Friends shop at the John Radcliffe Hospital to stock his C'go products.

Although at the moment Dr Massey is producing 20 bottles a week, he said he could increase that to 100 a week in his kitchen if the demand increases.

He said: "It's getting quite a lot of momentum."

"A bowl of cereal in a bottle has never been done before."

Dr Massey launched his product earlier this month - weeks before Chancellor George Osborne announced his sugar tax of soft drinks in the budget on March 16.

He added: "The sugar tax is completely the right thing to do, but it excludes cakes and confectionary because they are occasional treats."

"But breakfast bars and products also have high sugar levels and people sometimes eat them seven days a week."

## Former MP's award

**BANBURY:** Former MP Sir Tony Baldry will be given a special award marking his services to the community this week.

He will be awarded the Langton Award for Community Service, given out by the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby.

The former Banbury politician, pictured, will receive the accolade at a ceremony at Lambeth Palace in London on Thursday.

Earlier this month, Sir Tony was also appointed the Banbury High Steward after the post was revived for the first time in nearly 50 years.



## Funding for station

**N OXON:** Tackley Village station will get £25,000 worth of funding.

The funding is part of Great Western Railway support initiative for areas of "real social need".

Tackley Parish Council member and train representative Robin Gibbons said: "Tackley is a wonderful village for getting people involved in events and projects, so we are delighted that we have got funding to help us create more community interest in our railway station."

## Raise town issues

**BANBURY:** Residents are can raise any concerns or issues with their town councillor at their next meeting this Saturday.

Meetings between local people and councillors take place on the first Saturday of every month.

It will take place at the town hall between 10am and 12pm and no appointment is necessary.

## Stamp collection raises funds for worthy causes

MORE than 125,000 used stamps have been collected by a Banbury church after a two-year project donating them to worthy causes.

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Bankside have been collecting, cutting out and sorting stamps that are then given to Oxfam and

Leukaemia Care to sell on.

The collection has been donated to by a variety of sources, including avid collectors passing on their albums and people handing over their old Christmas card envelopes.

The church's local leader Bishop Joseph Gedge, said: "Participating in service

activities like the stamp appeal is a great way to be involved in our local community."

"We feel fortunate to have developed a close relationship with these organisations and the great causes they support."

Anyone with stamps to donate can drop them off at The Artery arts centre in

Parsons Street.

Owner Barry Whitehead said: "We are thrilled so many people are remembering to bring their stamps in to us. We get people from all over the area, who bring in small handfuls to sandwich bags full of stamps of all kinds."

"It's a great way to support these charities."

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## Hear about bosses' plans for healthcare

PATIENTS, carers and the public are invited to hear about how health bosses plan to improve care.

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) is hosting its public board meeting from 9am to 12.45pm at the John Paul II Centre, in The Causeway, Bicester, next week.

Chief executive David Smith will be updating the board and the public on what progress the CCG is making to improve patient care.

Board members will also hear about the organisation's finances and the performance of other health services.

The public can submit questions at least 48 hours before the meeting on March 31. All questions will be answered either in responses to the relevant papers or on the OCCG website within 20 working days.

See the agenda at: [oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/how-we-work/board-meetings/](http://oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/about-us/how-we-work/board-meetings/).

To submit a question email [oxon.gpc@nhs.net](mailto:oxon.gpc@nhs.net).

## Labour makes free car parking pledge

THE area's Labour Party has promised to reinvigorate Banbury and Bicester's town centres and increase free car parking in both towns after it launched its manifesto ahead of elections on May 5.

Other promises made include making more affordable housing available and continuing their opposition to fracking. Banbury Ruscott councillor Sean Woodcock, also leader of the Labour group on Cherwell District Council, said the party wanted to unlock the Cherwell district's "unfulfilled potential".

He added: "Car parking charges are a symptom of the lack of commitment to businesses which we want to change."

# Councillor in calls for M40 fog alert



Labour county councillor Mark Cherry overlooking the M40; the collision that involved more than 30 vehicles in February last year

Kieran Davey  
[kdavey@nqo.com](mailto:kdavey@nqo.com)

URGENT improvements to the safety of the M40 must be made before there are any more serious accidents on the route, according to a Labour county councillor.

Next week, Mark Cherry will submit a motion to Oxfordshire County Council urging members to support changes to the motorway between junctions 8 and 11.

It comes after a 65-year-old man was killed in February last year following a major collision.

More than 30 vehicles were involved in the incident between junctions 9 and 10.

Mr Cherry said: "The memory of last year's pile-up is still with us and although an horrendous accident like that is a rarity, there are too many accidents on the M40, with increased congestion the likely cause."

"There is already going to be a lot of changes in Banbury with all the new

## Rising traffic volume likely to increase likelihood of accidents

homes being built, and that is going to increase the volume of traffic.

"Of course we will also have High Speed Rail 2 traffic at some point too."

"Parts of the Banbury Masterplan will start to come into effect by 2020 but for the M40 it has got to be quicker than that."

Up to 50 people were also assessed by paramedics at the scene following last year's incident.

Drivers described fog covering the road as a "sheet of plastic", which contributed to the crash.

Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter returned a verdict of "accidental death" on the man who died, and wrote to Highways England asking them to consider installing a fog detector on the road.

The accident came 24 years to the day after a similar incident at about the same location, when a young woman died.

The Banbury Calthorpe county councillor added: "If they did a proper forensic look at the M40 there could be more

signals or lights warning if there is fog. "I am very surprised that nothing has been done so far."

"It all comes down to money and funding, and obviously that is something the county council is in short supply of."

"You can put forward a motion but it is no good if it does not get passed, there are lives at stake here."

"If this saves lives then I will have done my job, that is one of the reasons why I serve people after all."

The motion will be discussed by councillors at the next council meeting on Tuesday, April 5.

It will be seconded by Conservative councillor David Nimmo Smith, who is also the council cabinet's member for the environment.

Other motions to be forwarded by members include government proposals to force schools to become academies, and the referendum on Great Britain's membership of the European Union. The meeting on Tuesday will start at 10am at County Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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## Call for actors to take part in trio of performances

SIX male and female actors of a range of ages are needed to take part in three plays at the Banbury Cross Players' 'Theatrical Feast' this summer.

The drama group's challenging trio of two-

handlers includes David Tristram's *Peas*, David Tristram's *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish* and Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*.

The final performances will

take place from Wednesday, July 13 to Saturday, July 16.

Auditions will take place on Thursday, April 7, at 8pm at The Mill Arts Centre.

You do not have to be a member to audition but will

be asked to join if cast and will need to be available from July 10 for technical and dress rehearsals.

For further information email [contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk](mailto:contactus@banburycrossplayers.org.uk).



# Exhibition will focus on history of village



Items on display at Bloxham Museum

Museum aims to break 1,000 visitor mark in its 35th anniversary year

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

STAFF at Bloxham Museum are celebrating their 35th anniversary this year by showcasing the best of the village's history.

The latest exhibition, Anniversaries and Celebrations, tells the story of the various weddings, christenings and jubilees that have been marked in Bloxham.

The new displays, which opened on Easter Sunday, will also give the museum the chance to show off most of its 6,000 artefacts.

Highlights will include a 1930's silk wedding dress, commemorative memorabilia from five coronations and a collection of photographs recording the parades, processions and street parties that have taken place in the village.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a large display commemorating a traditional May Day celebration, complete with a May pole and images of celebrations at local schools.

Museum registrar Katherine Burke said the aim of

the show was to retell the history of Bloxham and how the villagers played their part in marking major national events.

She said: "We change our exhibition every year and often we go along with a theme that is Oxfordshire-wide."

"Bloxham is a village with an extremely rich history so it is important to display that social history and keep it fresh every year."

"We have a large team of volunteers and a skilled pair of curators working here on each exhibition."

The museum welcomes an average of 900 visitors a year, and are hoping to break the thousand mark for this celebratory year. About 60 volunteers are also called on to help run the exhibitions.

The museum was opened in 1981 by Yvonne Huntriss who ran it for 19 years, and her late husband Charles, who was a solicitor and prisoner of war during the Second World War.

Mrs Huntriss is now the patron for the museum. This year's annual exhibition also welcomes contributions from Bloxham Women's Institute and Bloxham School, which will both be providing artefacts from their own anniversaries and celebrations.

The exhibition will be open from 2.30pm to 5pm every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday until October 29.



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## Scales of justice

CASES heard at Banbury Magistrates' Court recently:

### Victoria

**Ashworth, 37**, of Otmoor View, Merton, found guilty of failing to give information in relation to the identification of a driver alleged to be guilty of an offence on December 31, 2014. Handed a £155 fine and ordered to pay £20 victim surcharge and £180 costs. Also had six points put on her licence.

**Adam Chambers, 28**, of Lincoln Close, Bicester, admitted stealing a bicycle worth £50 belonging to Catherine Guzman in Pioneer Square, Bicester, on January 2 this year, and stealing washing powders worth £37.25 belonging to the Co-op in Barberray Place, Bicester, on February 14 this year. Also admitted failing to comply with supervision requirements by failing to attend supervision on December 24 last year and January 22 this and failing to notify change of address. Jailed for 12 weeks and ordered to pay £87.25 compensation.

**Theresa Maynard, 51**, of Thompson Drive, Caversfield, Bicester, admitted criminal damage to a Land Rover Discovery in Bicester to the value of £4,035 belonging to Garry Pettit on August 22 last year. Handed a £200 fine and ordered to pay £400 compensation, £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

**Kimberley Crosdale, 23**, of Monins Avenue, Tipton, West Midlands, admitted stealing clothing worth £260.50 belonging to Debenhams in Banbury on December 1 last year. Handed a £100 fine and ordered to pay £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

**Christopher Robertson, 37**, of Langdale Gate, Witney, admitted assaulting PC Gassner in the execution of his duty in Langdale Court, Witney, on January 24 this year. Also admitted damaging a police van in Long Hanborough without lawful excuse on the same day. Handed a £300 fine and ordered to pay £100 compensation, £20 victim surcharge and £85 costs.

**Jack White, 51**, of Blenheim Drive, Bicester, admitted using a vehicle in Bucknell Road, Bicester, without third party insurance and otherwise in accordance with a licence on March 26 last year. Handed a £300 fine and ordered to pay £30 victim surcharge and £85 costs. Also disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence for six months.

**Stuart Cotten, 42**, of Corbett Road, Carterton, admitted drink-driving a Citroen Xsara in Alvescot Road, Carterton, on February 20 this year. Had 55 micrograms of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above legal limit of 35 micrograms. Handed a £510 fine and ordered to pay £51 victim surcharge and £85 costs. Also disqualified from holding or obtaining a driving licence for 16 months.

**Vivien Fawdrey, 24**, of Winston Walk, Woodstock, admitted assaulting PC Matthews in the execution of her duty in Woodstock between January 6 and January 7 this year. Handed a £40 fine and ordered to pay £100 compensation and £20 victim surcharge.

**Tanya Fulker, 39**, of New Road, Great Tew, admitted stealing £1,662.95 in cash belonging to Great Tew County Primary School between September 3, last year, and February 12 this year. Also admitted stealing £439 in cash belonging to Lucy Miles during the same period. Handed a community order with 150 hours unpaid work. Also ordered to pay £2,540.95 compensation, £60 victim surcharge and £85 costs.



## Former teacher wins prize for her paintings inspired by landscapes

A PAINTER from near Banbury has been announced as the winner of Oxfordshire Artweeks' 2016 Mary Moser prize.

Caroline Chappell, from Middleton Cheney, said she was honoured to win after taking the decision to give up teaching to become a professional painter.

The 65-year-old spent years as an

art teacher at the Warriner School in Bloxham before training in pottery.

She later enrolled on to a further education course run by Oxford University called "Walking the Past", which gave an introduction to painting Oxfordshire landscapes.

She said: "I loved working with the young people but teaching and raising a daughter left little time for

my own art. It wasn't until I took early retirement that I was able to devote time to develop my paintings and make a profession of it."

Speaking about how her paintings are inspired by landscapes, she added: "The surface of the land provides the clues to what has gone before. Standing alone, hearing the landscapes as I sketch, I feel tiny, in

comparison to the grandeur and enormity of these ancient views."

The Mary Moser prize was established in 2003 to mark the work of a local artist who takes up art as a second career later in life.

An exhibition of the artist's canvasses will be on show in Middleton Cheney's Heseltine Gallery this month.

# New artwork taking flight on wall of cafe

'The reaction so far has been positive . . . although some are sad to see it go'

Kieran Davey  
kdavey@nqo.com

ONE of Banbury's most iconic pieces of artwork has been given a new lease of life after delighting passers-by for 25 years.

For a quarter of a century the wall of Naomi's Cafe Bar in Bridge Street has been covered with its own unique brand of street art making it a firm favourite with customers.

But now cafe owner Naomi Perkins has decided to replace the artwork and create a new design for people to enjoy.

Miss Perkins, who opened up the cafe 18 months ago, said: "The original mural was one of the main reasons why I wanted to take on the cafe."

"I used to see it when I was little and my grandmother would bring me into Banbury, I was so fascinated by it."

"It's been here a long time and it had started to look very outdated."

"It was old fashioned, you could see gaps in the paint and street art has moved on a lot since then."

"When I took over the lease I checked with the landlord that I could change it, and he was more than happy for me to do so."

The previous design, which was funded by the Prince's Trust and created for the Bridge Bar youth club, was painted in a graffiti style.

The mural has been repainted by Banbury-based artist Jonny Arnold and Australian painter Cherie Strong.

They started work on their creation this month and are hoping to complete the new mural in April.

Miss Perkins, 30, added: "It is such a rare opportunity to paint something like this in your own town."

"The reaction so far has been hugely positive, although there have of course been people who have been upset by the change."

"We have had lots of comments on social media, some are sad to see it go and others are looking



The mural on the end wall has been changed to a soaring bird; below, the old mural

forward to something new. When we first started talking about the plans we had a lot more people come into the cafe to chat about it."

"The new design is moving away from the graffiti style and more towards the three-dimensional."

"There are also references to the cafe as well as the Edible Community Garden [in Bridge Street]."

Last weekend the cafe held an open evening where customers

could come in and chat to the artists about their plans for the new mural.

But despite the popularity of the previous mural, Miss Perkins revealed it was solely down to the artists themselves what the new design would be.

She said: "The guys said that they would pick the design, so I've just been waiting to see what it is."



## Box was cold comfort for Scouts' chilly insight into plight of homeless

NORTH Oxfordshire Scouts spent an evening in the cold to try and get a glimpse of life being homeless.

The cub scouts from 1st Bodicote Scout Group spent a chilly February evening outside their headquarters with just a cardboard box to lie on.

The stunt was part the Cubs' project to get their "Our World" challenge badge by working with Banbury Young Homelessness Project (BYHP).

The badge requires Cubs to work with people or an organisation for



the community, so the boys and girls aged eight to 10 chose BYHP, which supports people aged 13 to 25 in finding and maintaining a safe home.

The Cubs discussed what it might be like not to have a permanent home, job or have enough food, before spending their night out.

Some of the youngsters said that after 10 minutes they could feel the cold, despite being wrapped up in their winter coats.

The children also collected non-perishable food for the BYHP from friends, relatives and neighbours, filling 12 boxes with long-life milk, tinned meat, pasta sauce and coffee.

Cub Scout Ollie, aged nine said:

"The reason I love Cubs is that it gives me the opportunity to go camping, get muddy and not have to worry about school work."

Tim Tarby-Donald from BYHP visited the Cub Scouts to collect the items. Adult volunteer Helen Barnby-Porritt said: "It gives you a great sense of achievement when you see a young person master something new, especially when it is something they wouldn't get a chance to do outside Scouting. Their reaction is priceless."



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## Fun activities go on offer at holiday hubs

TENNIS, dodgeball and football are all on the agenda for the upcoming holiday hubs for youngsters across Cherwell.

This year's Easter activities will feature a specialist football camp run in partnership with Oxford United.

Cherwell District Council deputy leader George Reynolds said: "Children will be counting down with excitement until the start of the Easter holidays. But parents will be faced with the dilemma of finding ways to keep them occupied."

"Our activity programme meets the needs of the adults and the kids, as we offer fun and affordable activities to keep everybody happy."

"The holiday hubs are continuing to grow in popularity with children able to participate in sports, arts and crafts and activity sessions while for those fixated on football, our specialist camps offer the perfect solution to improve their footwork."

The activities started this week and the hubs will run at The Cooper School in Bicester, North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury and the Warriner School in Bloxham.

The holiday hubs are for children between five and 15 and will include arts, crafts, dodgeball, tennis and trampolining from either 8.45am to 5pm or 8.45am to 3pm. There will also be football camps held at North Oxfordshire Academy Banbury from Monday, April 4, to Friday, April 8.

Youngsters can learn skills from FA qualified coaches and get the chance to meet an Oxford United first team player.

For further information or to book call 01295 221803 or for Oxford United camps contact 01865 337525.

## Programme's support plan

POLITICIANS, teachers and businesses joined for workshops at Banbury and Bicester College as part of the town's Brighter Futures Programme.

The programme hopes to forge partnerships between education and local employment to give locals the best opportunities for getting jobs or entering further education.

Banbury MP Victoria Prentis joined those at the college on March 18, for talks and workshops.

Banbury and Bicester College head of campus Lisa Dukes said: "We have been working to forge close links with local employers to narrow the gap between education and employment."

"This offers students a direct line of sight to meaningful employment, while meeting the skills needs of local business and supporting economic sustainability."

The main areas the Brighter Futures programme is looking to work in are Ruscote, Castle and Grimsbury.

Feedback from the workshops will be put into an action plan for the town.

## Anger grows over plans to turn every school into academy

A TEACHER'S union member has called for Oxfordshire teachers to strike if necessary to fight government plans to turn all schools into academies.

The government decision to turn every school in England into an academy has ignited calls for a one-day strike, which the National Union of Teachers (NUT) has backed.

Gawain Little, national executive member for the NUT and representative for Oxfordshire, called the government edict "undemocratic".

He said: "I definitely think that teachers in Oxford should make a stance and support the campaign."

"I have never seen people so angry about what has been done to education."

"Over the past week I have had numerous phone calls from teachers, from parents."

"I have had parents phoning up out of the blue asking what they can do to fight this."

"What they've done is totally undemocratic."

The union's annual conference on Saturday backed a strike ballot for this summer term after it heard calls for industrial action in opposition to the changes, which its leaders say could threaten teachers' pay and job security.

He raised concerns that without local authority input, the most vulnerable students would fall through the gaps.

Mr Little also criticised Nicky Morgan, secretary of state for education, who suggested banning parents as school governors.

He added: "The idea that the government can take whatever school and make sure parents have no say is ridiculous."

"Nicky Morgan's comments about removing parents as school governors – I don't know who is more qualified than a parent."

# Warning as scammers target county's elderly

Extra vigilance has been urged following 'massive' increase in doorstep crime figures as fraudsters flock to Oxfordshire



Oxfordshire trading standards doorstep crime team leader Martin Woodley has warned of a sharp rise in cases at the beginning of this year

Hannah Somerville  
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**SCAMMERS have been crossing the country to target the elderly in Oxfordshire as the start of the year saw a "massive" rise in doorstep crime.**

Vulnerable people are being warned to be extra vigilant of rogue traders offering home improvements as figures revealed there were more than 80 incidents reported in February and March so far.

Doorstep crime team leader Martin Woodley, from Oxfordshire trading standards, said the figure was a "massive" rise with about 25 in the same period last year. He said his officers were "inundated" with calls with organised groups of criminals coming from as far away as Grimsby in Humberside to target the county, seen as rich-pickings

due to the high number of wealthy older people.

He added: "We have not been hit this hard in February and March in a long time."

"This is a major problem."

"They are coming in at about four or five a day at the moment."

In 2014/15, his team received 377 complaints about doorstep crime, but Mr Woodley said this financial year – 2015/16 – was likely to see about 410, and next year could be even higher with the problem likely to rise in the summer.

Mr Woodley said: "Historically it drops off in December and starts getting busy in April. But this year we got hammered in February."

"It's the first year it started this early."

And he believed the reason for the early surge could be the mild winter experienced in Oxfordshire.

He said: "We had a spell of wet and cold, then suddenly it went quite dry and pleasant. It's the first

opportunity they've had to get out and about and do what they do."

Three trading standards officers and one policeman are working around the clock to combat the issue, he added, with eight already arrested since the beginning of the year.

And it is believed even more scams are taking place, with just five per cent of those hit by the fraudsters reporting it to the authorities.

Trading standards operations manager Jody Kerman said: "Unfortunately situations such as these are common and can have shattering effects on a victim's life."

"Not only can they lose their life savings but also lose the confidence to leave their home and in some instances develop health issues such as anxiety and depression."

"Scams are massively underreported."

Along with dodgy home improvements, fake prize draws are a common means of getting people to

part with their money, along with 'gold coin scams', timeshare resale scams and clairvoyant or psychic scams.

According to the national branch of trading standards, the average age of a victim is 74.

People in Oxfordshire are being warned to be wary of out-of-the-blue phone calls, letters and emails and being asked to send money to claim a prize or receive competition winnings. Pressure selling and uninvited doorstep callers, particularly those offering home improvements, should also be treated with caution.

In the last week of February, Oxford pensioner Michael Murphy, 67, said he had been conned out of £12,000 by men promising to fix his gutters and roof.

A few months previously a 74-year-old woman in Yarnton had fallen for rogue traders who had left her £20,000 out of pocket using the same tactics.



# Paw-fect chance to get your dog microchipped

Under new legislation, owners could be landed with a fine of up to £500

**Hannah Somerville**  
hsomerville@nqo.com

A RACE against time to get every dog in Oxfordshire microchipped ahead of new legislation in April has begun.

From Wednesday, April 6, owners whose dogs have not had the procedure could be fined £500 under the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.

Animal welfare charity Blue Cross has warned that 70 per cent of dogs admitted to its Burford and Lewknor rehoming centres in 2015 were not chipped.

Lewknor centre worker Adam Moss explained this can make it impossible to reunite a beloved missing pet with their heartbroken family.

He said: "While we never know how a pet has become a stray, we see many who are in good health and are really friendly towards people.

"It suggests many are pets who could be being missed by devastated families. Some have even been trained, which means they must have been owned before they came to us. Without a microchip it is sadly impossible for us to trace their owners and get them home. Getting your pet chipped is the best way of being reunited.

"It's also really important to keep your contact details registered to the microchip up to date should you move house or change phone numbers."

Out of all the 2,420 dogs admitted to Blue Cross centres in 2015, a total of 1,694 did not have a microchip.

RSPCA Oxfordshire is running a series of microchipping events in the county with more planned Banbury, Witney, Didcot, Banbury and Bicester.

Branch treasurer Graeme Larkin said he believed 30 to 40 per cent of owners in Oxfordshire still need to get their dogs microchipped, which costs about £30 with a vet.

But added: "It's a no-brainer: responsible owners with a dog that's part of the family look after their welfare.

"Most charities are microchip-



Stacey Howland at Blue Cross Lewknor rehoming centre scans for a microchip on Harvey the Lurcher

## What is happening on April 6?

THE Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 will come into force on April 6, meaning dog owners in England, Scotland and Wales are legally obligated to have their furry friends microchipped and their details registered on one of the authorised databases such as Petlog. Northern Ireland already has the measure.

Police and local authority employees will be issued with microchip reader scanners so that instant enforcement of the law can be carried out.

If an owner is caught with an un-chipped dog, they will be given a 'time window' to get the chipping done, after which a £500 fine for failing to comply will be issued.

Puppies should be microchipped at their second set of vaccinations - around the time they are weaned - from about eight weeks.

ping dogs free of charge."

He said owners in Oxfordshire also urgently needed to keep their details up-to-date: "One of the biggest frustrations we have with microchipped animals is people change their mobile numbers or move address and the last thing they think about is updating the information on the microchip, and we so can't

match a dog with their owner."

Larkmead Vets in Sutton Courtenay is encouraging people through the doors with a 25 per cent discount - bringing the cost down to £16.42 - in the countdown to April 6.

Receptionist Natalie McKirman said: "We've had a lot of people coming in having their dogs microchipped."

## Spotlight on grief

**BANBURY:** People who have lost loved ones are invited to help improve bereavement services in north Oxfordshire.

Cruse Bereavement Care and Healthwatch Oxfordshire are holding a meeting on Thursday, April 21, to speak to people about what helped them cope with grief and what did not.

The event, from 2pm to 4pm at the Age UK centre in White Lion Walk, Banbury, is open to adults over 18 from the Banbury area who have lost a loved one.

To find out more call Cruse Bereavement Care on 01865 202242 or email [oxfordcruse@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:oxfordcruse@yahoo.co.uk)

## Charity awards

**OXON:** The work of the county's volunteers, charities and non-profit groups are set to be celebrated as part of the Oxfordshire Charity and Volunteer Awards.

On May 11, categories to be celebrated at Oxford town hall include new charity of the year, lifetime achievement, collaboration and best team of volunteers.

The deadline for nominations is next Thursday, March 31.

To nominate visit: [ocva.org.uk/awards/](http://ocva.org.uk/awards/)

## Childcare insight

**OXON:** Childcare students from City of Oxford College and Banbury and Bicester College have returned from a trip exploring nurseries in Poland.

A total of 18 students from the two colleges went on the trip from Sunday, March 13, to Wednesday, March 16.

They visited a number of sites in Warsaw which college spokesman Daryn Castle said "gave them an insight into how the early years curriculum is delivered in Poland and the key differences with the UK system".

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## Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

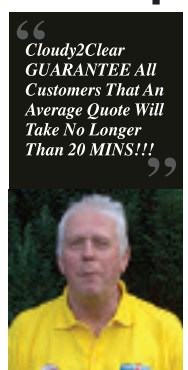
Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company

policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. "Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury

& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise."

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## Police praise missing children study

OXFORDSHIRE's police force has welcomed a new report into how police officers deal with missing and absent children.

The report, 'Missing children: who cares? The police response to missing and absent children', was published last week by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

It said officers had a "sympathetic and approachable manner" in ensuring children were safe, and worked well with partners to help protect children.

But it also said that risk assessments had been carried out incorrectly which left children at risk of harm.

Thames Valley Police head of strategy for crime and protecting vulnerable people, Detective Superintendent Joe Kidman, said: "I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) report, which highlights the challenges and importance of thoroughly investigating reports of missing children.

"In December 2015 we were

one of the few forces nationally to be graded as 'Good' by HMIC to responding to vulnerable people.

"This inspection particularly examined our response to missing children and the closely aligned issue of child sexual exploitation.

"We have adopted some of the most robust standards in the country for investigating missing children, and we understand the alignment between missing children and the potential of child sexual exploitation."



## Labour support for academy row chief

**OXON:** A senior Labour councillor has backed comments made by Oxfordshire's Conservative education chief about plans to force schools into becoming academies.



In a motion to Oxfordshire County Council, John Tanner, *pictured*, said he "congratulates" Melinda Tilley after she called the Government policy "big brother gone mad".

Under plans announced by George Osborne, all schools would be required to convert to academy status by 2020.

But ministers are already facing threats of strike action from teaching unions and concerns from Conservative councillors.

Mr Tanner's motion calls on county council leader Ian Hudspeth to write to Education Secretary Nicky Morgan about the issue. It will be debated on Tuesday, April 5, in County Hall, Oxford.

## Every little helps!

**BANBURY:** Volunteers got their hands dirty sprucing up the Bridge Street Edible Community Garden after receiving a £10,000 Tesco grant.

On Saturday, March 19, locals prepared beds for planting, added soil and dug through an area of scrub to prepare it for raspberry and loganberry bushes.

Last month, the garden received a much-needed £10,000 in funding from Tesco's Bags of Help initiative to give the project a boost, and bi-weekly meet-ups at the site will take place from now into the summer. For more information visit [tinyurl.com/gsn8zrl](http://tinyurl.com/gsn8zrl)

# 'Dragon' helps patch up holes in county's roads

**Matt Oliver**  
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A FIRE-breathing "Dragon" has been deployed to fix potholes in Oxfordshire's roads.

The machine – named because of its nozzle that blasts potholes with flames – has already patched 2,000 holes in the county, according to Oxfordshire County Council.

The local authority's highways contractor Skanska is using it to repair about 20 defects a day. It is a job that previously saw a two-person crew and a lorry manually filling the potholes with hot tarmac.

This cuts the cost of fixing potholes from £70 each to just £10 each, the firm said.

Skanska business director Paul Durham added: "Our aim is to reduce the number of potholes and the patcher is helping us to achieve this."

"Where potholes have appeared, it is a lot faster than traditional repair techniques."

"It also reduces the need for traffic management systems, which means we can keep the roads running and avoid delays to motorists."

David Nimmo Smith, county council cabinet member for environment, said: "We are pleased to be working with our contractor to



Skanska, the county council's highways maintenance contractor, has a new weapon to fight the scourge of potholes – the flame-breathing 'Dragon Patcher'. Pictured with it here is Skanska operative Craig Dobbin

bring innovation to our highway service."

The Dragon works by drying and

cleaning the area that needs fixing with compressed air, before sealing it stone chippings and hot

bitumen emulsion. It means the surface is ready to take traffic in minutes, the council said.

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### Highlights & inclusions

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- Coach travel from the local area
- Escorted by a friendly tour manager

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# A truly soaring biographic

**EDDIE THE EAGLE (PG, 106 mins)** A comedy/drama with Taron Egerton, Hugh Jackman, Keith Allen, Tim McInnerny, Christopher Walken and Jim Broadbent.

**Director:** Dexter Fletcher  
WHEN Baron Pierre de Coubertin kindled interest in the modern Olympic movement at the end of the 19th century, he proposed a series of ideals to epitomise the spirit of the sporting contest.

"The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well," he professed.

That mantra of fearless yet honest participation was perfectly exemplified by Cheltenham-born athlete Eddie Edwards, who became a media sensation in 1988 when he represented Great Britain in the ski jump in Calgary.

His story of triumph against gravity, which swelled the patriotic hearts of a nation, provides the creative spark for Dexter Fletcher's comedy drama.

Screenwriters Sean Macaulay and Simon Kelton don't let the truth get in the way of telling a good yarn, slaloming between historical fact and humorous artistic licence to ensure their film remains giddily airborne.

Fletcher's light touch behind the lens concentrates on the camaraderie between a remarkable underdog and his fictional trainer.

Since he was a boy, Eddie (Taron Egerton) has driven his father Terry (Keith Allen) to distraction with a burning dream to compete in the Olympics.

The young man struggles to find a sport that suits him, so he switches attention to the Winter Olympics and discovers a loophole in the rulebook that would allow him to become Britain's first representative in the ski jump since 1929.

Eddie heads to Germany to a ski jumping training centre run by former competitor Bronson Peary (Hugh Jackman), who was booted off the US team by coach Warren Sharp (Christopher Walken).

Bronson takes pity on Eddie and helps the newcomer to master the basics.

However, Dustin Target (Tim McInnerny), chairman of the British Olympic Committee, refuses to let Eddie compete on a technicality and adds a qualifying standard of 61m to the rulebook at the last minute.

With time running out before the Calgary games, Eddie hits the European ski jumping tour with Bronson, determined to soar to break records rather than bones in his quest for Olympic qualification.

*Eddie The Eagle* is a delight for all ages.

Egerton brings a sweetness and steely resolve to his plucky fish-out-of-water.

Jackman offers robust support, rabble-rousing from the sidelines.

Edwards never climbed atop the Olympic podium, but this charming film is champion.

**VICTORIA (15, 138 mins)** A thriller/romance with Laia Costa, Frederick Lau, Franz Rogowski, Burak Yigit, Max Mauff, Andre Hennicke.

**Director:** Sebastian Schipper  
THIS tense thriller was filmed in one unbroken shot; an act of technical daring, meticulous preparation and ambition which reaps huge rewards as we are sucked into the vortex of the characters' nightmarish journey through the streets of night-time Berlin.

Nils Frahm's metronomic score increases our pulses as the eponymous heroine faces life or death decisions, surrounded by armed police, who could end her life with a pull of a trigger.

The film opens in a strobe-lit nightclub where a Spanish girl called Victoria (Laia Costa) is



Taron Egerton as Eddie the Eagle and Hugh Jackman as his coach

dancing prior to her shift at a cafe. As she leaves, Victoria encounters four rowdy men, who persuade her to join them for a drink on the rooftop of a nearby building.

She enjoys a flirtation with one and agrees to make her new friend a hot chocolate before they go their separate ways. The romantic mood is shattered when his friends arrive to collect him for a job on behalf of a sadistic gangster.

When their plan goes awry, Victoria agrees to help them carry out their illegal plan.

It's a nail-biting exercise in technical brio that remains close to the characters as events spiral out of control.

## Cake Bookworm

**Hot Milk** by Deborah Levy, hardback by Hamish Hamilton, £12.99 (ebook £9.99)

EVERY so often, you read a book whose author has so acutely captured the human condition in all its anxiety-fuelled, confused glory, it's almost painful to read. Deborah Levy has done this and yet manages to elicit a sense of catharsis too. Her narrator is 25-year-old, half Greek, half Yorkshire anthropology student and barista Sofia Papas-tergiadis, whose father has a new baby with a much younger woman in Athens and mother, Rose, has a mysterious paralysis of the legs, among other 'symptoms'. Mother and daughter are in Spain, where Rose has spent a small fortune to be seen by a private doctor, Gomez. He gives Sofia permission to leave her mother's side so she swims in the sea – and is stung by jellyfish, attracting the attentions of a life-guard – and meets Ingrid, a Berlin seamstress, with whom she begins

a tempestuous affair. In just over 200 pages, Levy, who was Booker shortlisted for *Swimming Home*, deftly deals with the pull-push of mother-daughter bonds and the financial crisis.

**A Girl In Exile** by Ismail Kadare, hardback by Harvill Secker, £16.99 (ebook £9.99)

ALBANIA's most internationally celebrated author here returns to the dying days of his country's Stalinist (and intermittently Kafkaesque) tyranny. Playwright protagonist Rudian Stefa is anxiously awaiting the authorities' approval of his latest work when he becomes involved in their investigation of a young internal exile's suicide. The dead girl had one of Stefa's books, autographed to her, despite the two never having met. The only link between them seems to be Rudian's lover Migena... who has herself disappeared. It's hard to care as Rudian's own self-absorption keeps entrapping him further, especially when

he somehow keeps dodging the worst of the consequences which should follow. Once we finally get closer to the heart of the mystery-one horribly convincing central concept confer a new power on an increasingly unusual tale.

**Gone Astray** by Michelle Davis, hardback by Pan Macmillan, £12.99 (ebook £6.02)

IF YOU won the lottery, everything would be perfect. Or would it? That's the central premise of this debut novel from journalist Michelle Davies. She introduces us to the Kinnock family, who have scooped £12 million on the EuroMillions draw. After moving to a more exclusive neighbourhood and sending their teenage daughter, Rosie, to an expensive private school, life should be wonderful. But their good fortune begins to unravel, after Rosie is kidnapped and the couple's marriage buckles under the strain.

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# Oxfordshire Listings

## Events

### THURSDAY

**2121 (Abingdon) Sqn Air Training Corps:** 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn premises, Wootton Road, Whitecross, Abingdon. Adventure training, sports, gliding and flying. 7.15pm. £8 per month. 01235 538955.

**Abingdon Young Farmers:** Manor Farm, Marcham. Social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-40 per year.

**Can Science Save...Football?:** The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford. Arsenal fan Marcus du Sautoy, Leeds supporter Jim Al-Khalili and statistician David Spiegelhalter are refereed by follower of Grimsby Town and Manchester City Quentin Cooper to see if science really can save football. Science Oxford staff will be on hand at half-time with oranges and a little hands-on fun. 7pm. £10, £6. 01865 305305.

**Children's Photography Workshop:** Fairytale Farm, Southcombe, Chipping Norton. A snack break is also included, where we can have a rest, look through some of pictures, and have a bite to eat. Visit <http://www.vinehousestudios.co.uk/photography-workshops>. 2pm. £35. 01608 683880.

**Einstein's Easter Trail (drop-in):** Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, Oxford. Challenge yourself to Einstein's Easter Mystery Trail at the Museum of the History of Science. Help yourself from the Entrance Gallery. Drop-in suitable for children aged seven upwards. 12pm. Free. 01865 277280.

**Indoor Bowls (short-mat):** Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 1.45pm. 01235 528402.

**Rhythm and Dance:** Rugrats and Halpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 11am. Free with standard entrance price to centre. 01295 250060.

**Sling Walk:** Earth Trust Centre, Little Wittenham. Bring your baby for a ramble around our nature reserve. 10am. £4 suggested donation per child. 01865 407792.

**Westgate Pop-Up Museum:** Family Day: Museum of Oxford, St Aldate's, Oxford. Visit the Westgate Pop-Up museum and see objects found at the site of the Westgate Shopping Centre. Pick up an exhibition trail which will take you from Medieval writing instruments to the skeleton of an Ox found at the edge of the gravel islands Oxford was built upon. 10.30am. Free. 01865 252334.

### FRIDAY

**Don't Fool Mel:** Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Special holiday Kids' Club. Challenging workshop for 6-10 year olds. Hours of active games, quizzes, craft, technical challenges and even dress up, linked to collections. Booking essential. 10am. £20. 01993 810 214.

**Family Workshop:** Pond Explorer: Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. Try your hand at pond dipping and find out about the fascinating creatures that live in and around our ponds. 1pm. £4 per child, accompanying adults free. 01235 862024.

**Over 60s lunch club:** Florence Park Community Centre, Cornwallis Road, Oxford. Noon. Free. 07864 028591.

### SATURDAY

**60s/70s Disco night:** Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Lamborough Hill, Wootton. 7.30pm. £10. 01235 532816.

**Architecture in Miniature:** Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Vicki Ambery-Smith has created several silver miniature versions of some of Oxford's

most iconic buildings, currently on display in Gallery 62. She will discuss the design and construction of the box she made based on Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre including proportion, size and construction techniques. 2pm. £5/£4 concessions. 01865 305305.

**Bitten Street:** Oxford Castle, Castle Street, Oxford. Monthly street food market, featuring a rotating selection of the best local and visiting street food. 11am. Free entry.

**Book Sale:** North Moreton Village Hall, Bear Lane, North Moreton. In aid of hall and church funds. 10am. Free entry. 01235 810880.

**Power Games – Ritual and Rivalry at the Greek Olympics:** Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. For over a millennium, Greeks flocked to the Olympic Games to celebrate the power of the gods and the human body. Focusing on the Olympics of 416 BC, David Studdard throws light on the religion and politics of the Games, the exhilaration of the competitions and the banqueting and victory celebrations which followed. 11am. £5/£4 concessions. 01865 305305.

**Spring Flower, Plant and Crafts Show:** Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. The Abingdon Horticultural Society Spring Show. 2pm. £2 for visitors, free for members. 01235 203873.

**Trev's Silver Jewellery Workshop:** The Mix Community Space, 15 Mill Street, Wantage. £30 per person. Booking essential. 10am. £30 per person. 07805 842192.

**Wallingford Historic Guided Walks:** Wallingford Museum, Flint House 52 High Street, Wallingford. Two historic guided walks led by Judy Dewey (local historian and museum curator). At 11am there will be a Castle history walk, followed by a Town history walk at 2.30pm. Each walk lasts about 2 hours, and start at the museum. £6 per walk; £10 special price for both walks. 01491 651127.

### SUNDAY

**Annual Jake Spicer Toy Run:** Oxford Harley-Davidson, Wootton Road, Abingdon. Congregating from 10am at the Oxford Harley-Davidson dealership in Wootton, the Oxford Harley Owners Group along with riders from the Thames Valley and Reading will be taking part in their Annual Jake Spicer Toy Run to the John Radcliffe Hospital where, they shall deliver toys, books, games, craft items and more, to the Children's Wing. To donate a gift for one of the riders to take on your behalf drop it off at the dealership prior to our departure on the day (gifts must not be wrapped and must not include soft toys or chocolate). This ride will be taking place regardless of the weather. 10.30am. Free.

**Ewelme Watercress Beds Nature Reserve morning guided walk:** Ewelme Watercress Centre, The Street, Ewelme. 10.30am. £3 unaccompanied children free.

**Faringdon Folly Tower Open:** Faringdon Folly Tower and Woodland, Stanford Road, Faringdon. Adults £3, 11-16s £1, Under-11s free. 11am.

**White Horse Half Marathon 2016:** Old Mill Hall, School Lane, Grove. A single-lap route through quiet country villages in the Vale of the White Horse. Cash prizes of £100, £50, £25 for first 3 men and first 3 women; other non-cash prizes in age categories and for teams (first 4 to score for men, 3 for ladies). The event incorporates the Oxfordshire County Half Marathon Championships and is one of the events included in the Oxfordshire AA Road Race Grand Prix. This year we are supporting Flexicare. 9.30am. Affiliated Runner Entry £16 / Unaffiliated £19.

**Witney Giant Afternoon Boat Sale:** Ducklington Showground, A415

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at [thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events](http://thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events)

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Standlake Road, Ducklington. 10am. 07974 056379.

### MONDAY

**Easter Egg-scapes with Science Oxford:** Museum of Oxford, St Aldate's, Oxford. Somebody is stealing the Easter Bunny's eggs. Use your engineering skills to build an alarm system that is triggered when an egg is taken. Suitable for ages 8-12 years. Tickets £10 per child and one adult, additional individuals £6, group of five £20. 10.30am-noon and 1.30pm-3pm. Free. 01865 252334.

**Ruby Wax – Frazzled! A guide to mindfulness:** Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Much loved comedian, actor and writer, Ruby Wax has also become a mental health campaigner, gaining a Masters degree in Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy from the University of Oxford. This special evening is a forum for discussion, following her best-selling book, *Sane New World*, which helps us understand why we sabotage our sanity with our own thinking. Your passport to saner living. She might not be sane herself but she does a pretty good imitation. 7.30pm. £17 | Discounts available. 01865 305305.

### TUESDAY

**Abingdon Flower Club:** Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Demonstration by national demonstrator, sales table, charity stall, raffle, refreshments. New members and visitors welcome. 7.15pm. 01865 378758.

**Ghost Tour with Bill Spectre:** Christ Church, St Aldate's, Oxford. Begin with a warming drink and piece of cake by the fire in the Great Hall, after which Bill will guide you on a theatrical and spine-tingling ghost tour of the college. Find more on <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/visitors-and-tourists/ghost-tour-bill-spectre>. 4pm. From £15. 01865 286998.

**Jewellery Making Workshop:** Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Learn traditional techniques to make jewellery such as earrings, bracelets and necklaces using pliers, hammers and punches inspired by objects at the museum. 10am. £25. 01865 278015.

**Science Day:** Great and Small (family Easter holiday activity for ages 5+): Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. 10am. Free. 01235 515144.

**Slimming World:** Abingdon Cricket Club, Culham Road, Abingdon. 5.30pm. 07739 179872.

**The history of Ditchley Park:** Turner Hall, Church Road, North Leigh. Colonel Mike Montague is giving a talk about the History of Ditchley Park. 7.30pm. £4 visitors, members free. 01993 882301.

**Wizards' Afternoon Tea:** Christ Church, St Aldate's, Oxford. Find more on <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/events/visitors-and-tourists/wizards-afternoon-tea-hall-0>. 3pm. From £25. 01865 286998.

**Bright Sparks Science – Easter Camp:** Girlguiding Thame District Headquarters, Southern Road, Thame. Each day is dedicated to a particular scientific phenomenon and uses a mixture of exciting demonstrations, thought provoking hands on tasks and lots of fun games Join us for a day or the week, jam packed full of science tricks,

messy experiments, fun games and science crafts. 9am-3.30pm. £25 per child. For children aged 5-11. 01865 522775.

**Cressy egg heads:** Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Family-friendly drop in. Make a yummy surprise to grow at home. 2pm. Free for children with a paying adult. 01993 810214.

**Speedwell Trust Lecture by Dr J Howick. Evidence for health implications of positive or negative outlooks:** Green Templeton College, Woodstock Road, Oxford. Dr Howick is a Senior Researcher in the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and a Fellow of Kellogg College. He trained as a philosopher of science and a clinical epidemiologist; a primary professional interest now is evidence-based medicine. 7.30pm. £5. Students free. 01865 552688.

## Music

### THURSDAY

**Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford:** Lunchtime concert. Free. 12.45pm. 01865 243216.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Better Than Never, Coast To Coasts, Catch Fire, One State Drive, The Last To Leave. Punk-pop & rock. 7pm. £4 (adv), £5 (old).

**Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford:** Toily Vyacheslavov Funk Quartet. Funk. 8pm. Free.

**The Fishes Pub, North Hinksey, Oxford:** Funkbrother and The Sisters of Soul. 8-11pm. Free.

**The Cock Inn, Combe:** Nick Gill. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals. 8-11pm. Free.

**SJE Arts at the church of S. John the Evangelist, 109 Iffley Road, Oxford:** National Youth Guitar Ensemble. 7.30pm. £12 (£10).

### FRIDAY

**Angel, Market Square, Witney:** Joe Holic. Music from 60s to present. Free entry. 9pm. 01993 703238.

**Berinsfield Social Club, Green Furlong, Berinsfield:** Doug & Dan. Father and son covers duo. 9pm. 07770 899859.

**Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot:** Bella Hardy. Folk singer supported by fiddle, guitar, lonesome piano. £15, £13.50 (concs). 8pm. 01235 515144.

**The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford:** Kris Drever. Singer/songwriter and member of folk trio Lau. £13 in advance, £15 on the door. 8.15pm. 01865 305305.

**The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford:** Oxford Folk Club open/theme night. £2. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

**Yeoman Inn, Wroslyn Road, Freeland:** C.Ody. Local vocal guitarist. Free entry. 9pm. 01993 881003.

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Kiran Leonard & Salvation Bill. 7-10pm. £8.

**James Street Tavern, 47-48 James Street, Oxford:** Beard Of Destiny, Jesters, Joint Decisions. Monthly showcase with featured bands followed by open jam session. 8.30pm. Free.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Fuzzy Logic, Vienna Ditto, Mad Larry, Simon Davies. 8.15pm. £5.

**The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford:** Flight Brigade, Little Red and Rosie Caldecott. 7.30-11pm. £10 (£9 adv, £7 early bird).

### SATURDAY

**Bicester Ex Services Club, Sheep Street, Bicester:** Uprooted. 9pm. 01869245367.

**Cricketers, Temple Road, Cowley:** Pete McCray. Soul and reggae. Free entry. 9pm. 01865 718459.

**Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston:** Cuckoo's Nest. Covers from 60s - 70s, 80s and 90s. Free. 9pm. 01865 243991.

**Northway CC, Dora Carr Close, Headington:** Darren Hunt. 9pm. 07957 322489.

**Oxford C&C Bowls Club, Marston Ferry Road, Marston:** Joe Holic. 8.30pm. 01235 833213.

**The New Inn, 111 Corn Street, Witney:** Mudslide Morris & the Revelators. Free. 9pm. 07790 646028.

**Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood:** Peter Knight's Gigspanner. Wychwood Folk Club. Peter is joined by Roger Flack on guitar and Vincent Salzfaas on percussion. £13 advance, £15 on door. 8pm. 01993 831427.

**The Bell, Bicester:** The Howlin' Taildragers. Chicago Blues. 9pm. Free.

### SUNDAY

**Oxford Wine Café, 38 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford:** Luca Teodoro Stoll Quartet. Sax, piano, bass & drums. Jazz. 6.30-9pm. Free.

### MONDAY

**The Bullingdon, Cowley Road, Oxford:** JW Jones. Young Canadian guitar slinger/singer. Blues. The Haven Club. £12 on the door £10 in adv. 8.30pm. 07754 501562.

**The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford:** Mick Pini Band. Famous Monday Blues. 8pm. £10.

### TUESDAY

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Alvin Roy's Reeds Unlimited. Jazz group perform. 8.30pm. Free.

**The Half Moon, 18 St Clements, Oxford:** Time Is Of The Essence. Jazz quartet. 9pm. Free.

### WEDNESDAY

**The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** High Tyde Plus Guests. Brighton based indie-rockers. 7-10pm. £6.

**The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford:** Tellison, Muncie Girls, The Beckoning Far Ones. 8pm.

**Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Kate Rusby. 7.30pm. £22.

**The Library Pub, 182 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Claire LeMaster, Bear Woods, All is Worth, Stuart Clark & Sarah Lambert Gates. Local singer-songwriters. 8.30pm. £3.

## Theatre

**Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Mar 23-Apr 3, *Bed Time*. A new show for children aged two to six. Various times, £8.50 (£6.50). 01865 305305.

**Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford:** Apr 2, Dana Alexander, Andrew Bird, Steve Williams and Freddie Farrell. 8pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

**Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford:** Mar 30-Apr 2, *42nd Street*. Small town girl Peggy Sawyer heads to the bright lights of Broadway to follow her dream. But when she arrives the reality of the big city isn't what she had imagined. 7.30pm. £11.50 to £21. 01865 305305.

**The Wheatsheaf, High Street, Oxford:** Apr 4, The Oxford Imps. Show based on audience suggestions. 8pm. £3.50.



# CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport



Captain Ed Phillips and Banbury's commercial co-ordinator Chris White lift the Oxfordshire Cup  
Picture: Simon Grieve

## Kerr salutes brilliant Bulls

### Banbury crowned county champions in style

HEAD coach James Kerr hailed his "outstanding" players after Banbury ended a 16-year wait to be crowned county champions, writes JACK JOHNSON.

The Midlands 2 West (South) leaders beat Henley Bulls 28-5 at Iffley Road.

Banbury blew away Henley in the opening half-hour, thanks to tries from Josh Deegan and Sean Bannister, as well as 13 points from the boot of Ed Phillips.

Martin Nutt went over just after the break for Bulls, but Jimmy Manley's try sealed victory for the

north Oxfordshire side.

Kerr could not hide his delight and was full of praise for his players.

He said: "The boys were just outstanding.

"We felt it was our night and we made sure we set the tone.

"To come away with a win is amazing and it means a lot to the club."

Three penalties from Phillips put Banbury into a 9-0 lead after 12 minutes as they punished Henley, who had Andrew Grant sin-binned.

Banbury's pressure finally took its toll when Deegan scorched over and Bannister crossed.

Phillips converted both scores to make it 23-0 after 30 minutes.

Henley improved and Nutt dived over just after the break.

But Banbury defended manfully to prevent their opponents adding to the scoreboard and, on 60 minutes, sealed victory.

After Jack Bradshaw was sin-binned for Henley, Manley forced his way over for an unconverted score.

Man-of-the-match Manu Paniagua said: "I have never been able to play in a final like this and I am really proud for the whole team and the coach."

## Puritans earn derby spoils to hit top spot

BANBURY United returned to the top of Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West with a 2-0 win at Wantage Town on Monday.

Charlie Wise broke the deadlock early in the second half, just moments after Wantage keeper Eddie Cavanagh had saved Mark Bell's penalty.

Substitute Felipe Barcelos made certain of the points with a second goal 16 minutes from time.

Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Welch-Hayes, Stanbridge (Howards 77), Wise, Westbrook, McEachran, Nash, Johnson, Browne (Barcelos 57), Bell. Subs not used: Blackstock, McCarthy, Hopkins.

On Saturday, the Puritans drew 0-0 with Tiverton Town.

Following an uneventful opening half-hour, Mark Bell had a shot tipped over.

Tiverton's Joe Perry denied Charlie Wise and Darius Browne fired wide late on.

Banbury Utd: Harding, White, Welch-Hayes, Nash, Westbrook, Wise, McEachran, Howards (Browne 65), Johnson, Barcelos (Blackstock 84), Bell. Subs not used: Stanbridge, McCarthy, Platt.

## STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

### ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Your social and work lives cross paths and lead to some very exciting outcomes. Just try to remember what you want from your professional life, rather than making decisions based on what looks good to others. Some sort of a test looms and it would be to your advantage to do a little more study or research. Ring now to hear how you taste in love has been changing recently.

0906 585 4360

### LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

A stubborn mood could see you asking for favours which others will be reluctant to give. Think before you speak please, especially on Wednesday and Thursday when you could be coming across in a harsh manner. Friday sees you giving and receiving more attention than usual as personal affairs get interesting. Phone now so I can help you live your life to the full.

0906 585 4366

### TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You can resist the changes which others are pushing for but, if you don't agree to them, it's likely that the person/persons concerned will seek support elsewhere. You have some serious soul searching to do then Taurus. A new face in the family sees your suspicious nature coming to the fore as you try to work out if they're genuine. Ring now to hear why I know they are.

0906 585 4361

### SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Those you thought you could trust have let you down and you start to worry that you have wasted time and energy on those who don't really appreciate you. You're about to learn how much the rest of the zodiac have had going on in the last fortnight and, from Tuesday, you learn how and why you can all work as a team. Phone now to work out who has been spreading those rumours.

0906 585 4367

### GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Faces from your past hold the key to the finances you will require, so seek them out on Friday, after which it may be too late for you to source the support and money that you are going to need. News on someone who used to be a major part of your personal life gives you reason to be glad you moved on. Ring now to hear how foreign sounding lands are significant in the months ahead.

0906 585 4362

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Family have some good advice and, even though you may feel as if they are trying to restrict you, they are in fact only trying to help and support you. Some astrologers would suggest that they know you better than you know yourself at the moment. A great week to formulate a new and improved work plan, especially pertaining to study. Ring now to hear how Mercury blesses you.

0906 585 4368

### CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You seem to be relying heavily on what others can do for you when your chart shows me that you are more than capable of sorting out what needs to be done yourself. News from far away gives you reason to get excited about your holidays this year. Be nice to strangers in your work. They hold the key to you taking things to the next level. Ring now so we can talk about last weekend.

0906 585 4363

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Secrets come to light which, although they at first make your life a more difficult place to be, will end up making you feel more at ease with your situation and where your life is going. News of a birth or pregnancy makes you question how well you know a close one. Events this week also force you to look at your life and where you want it to go. Ring now and I'll share a secret with you.

0906 585 4369

### LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Aries help you to find solutions to long standing work problems. It seems that this fellow fire sign is ready, willing and able to give you the support which others could not. Be a little more understanding with the older generation in your life, who may have been going through more stress and worry than you are aware of. Ring now so we can get your life into better shape and order.

0906 585 4364

### AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

You have been skirting around an issue for too long. I know it is sensitive, but it cannot be swept under the carpet. Time spent with those it involves this week can help you work out where you want things to go. It can also reveal that not everyone had the same perspective as you. Ring now to hear why I endorse you moving forward with the instant attractions you'll be experiencing.

0906 585 4370

### VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Those you thought you knew well could soon surprise you with the announcements they make. You thought you were working as part of a team, but other's actions this week could prove that you are not. Don't worry, as by Thursday you will soon see that this was a blessing in disguise. It helps you to work out how very capable you are. Ring now to better balance work and home life.

0906 585 4365

### PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

You have your naughty head on and so if someone tells you not to do something, then you will try your best to do it anyway. Why don't you try dealing with the personal issues which is really responsible for this stubborn frame of mind? Saturn helps you to work out how you can secure your funds and which is the best way forward to make this year a more comfortable one. Wear green for luck in love this weekend. Ring now so we can make the most of this very dramatic week.

0906 585 4371

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## ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

# Bright future for Banbury

Naomi Herring  
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TRADERS can look forward to a brighter future in Banbury's High Street as the number of empty units in town has fallen.

A partnership between traders, landlords and Cherwell District Council has been working to revive the town centre and recent figures show there are now fewer empty shops than it did this time last year.

It comes after a masterplan was put forward for consultation to look at improving Banbury's centre including the redevelopment of the Oxford Canal area.

MP for Banbury Victoria Prentis, pictured, said: "Shopping locally is

really important to me, and I try to do so wherever possible. Banbury has a lovely High Street with a good variety of shops.

"The combination of high street brands and independent traders, alongside the traditional market, makes Banbury an attractive place to shop.

"It is really encouraging that the number of small businesses in our area is continuing to increase as confidence returns to our economy."

Cherwell District Council lead member for Brighter Future, Kieron Mallon, said that the proposed masterplan was looking to focus on



areas such as revamping the town market, looking at more town centre events, plus creating a mixture of retail, residential and leisure.

He said: "Cherwell District Council is committed to working with traders, landlords and agents to enhance the shopping offer in Banbury town centre.

"The town team co-ordinators, who were appointed by Cherwell District Council in 2014, have successfully focused on boosting footfall, reducing the number of empty town shops, and exploring opportunities to bring the pop-up

concepts to Banbury.

"The council remains committed to maintaining a vibrant shopping environment in the town and will continue to work with the Old Town Association, the Chamber of Commerce, Castle Quay, the town council, the markets operator and existing businesses to ensure this."

There are events such as Banbury Canal Day, Food Fair, Flower and Produce Show and the Old Town Spring Party on Saturday, May 7. The Banbury masterplan is currently out for public consultation and can be viewed at Castle Quay shopping centre on Saturday, April 2, from 10am until 4pm.

It can also be viewed online at [cherwell.gov.uk/policypublicconsultation](http://cherwell.gov.uk/policypublicconsultation)

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 Spring Old Town Party

#### JUNE

Sunday 12th 10.30am - 4.30pm  
 Banbury & District Show

#### Saturday 25th

Armed Forces Day

#### JULY

Sunday 3rd 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
 Bark in the Park

#### AUGUST

Sunday 21st 10.30am - 4.30pm  
 Banbury Food Fair

Sunday 21st 10.30am - 4.30pm  
 Banbury Flower & Produce Show

Fruit & Vegetables - Cut Flowers & Potted Plants - Floral Art - Cakes & Preserves - Crafts - Children's Variety

#### SEPTEMBER

Saturday 3rd 9.30am - 3.30pm  
 Old Town Summer Party and  
 Street Organ festival

Sunday 11th 10.30am - 12.30pm  
 Battle of Britain parade and Service

#### OCTOBER

Sunday 2nd 10.30am - 4.30pm  
 Banbury Canal Day

#### NOVEMBER

Sunday 13th 10.00am - 1.00pm  
 Remembrance Day parade

Sunday 27th 10.00am - 6.00pm  
 Christmas Lights Festival

#### DECEMBER

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9

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11

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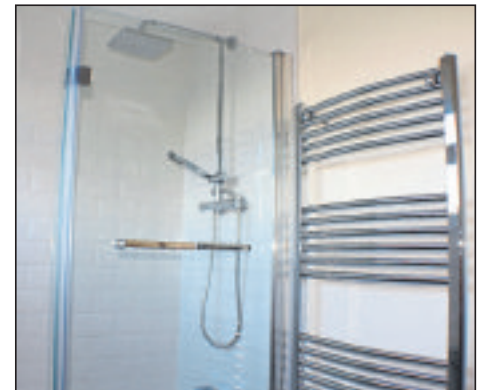
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Inside a kitchen at Goodrington Close in Banbury, above; a Property Club session in progress, top right; a shower for the bathroom, right

## ‘Immaculate’ three-bed is an ideal home for families

FAMILIES and sharers are welcome at a three-bedroom house in Banbury, according to agents.

The terraced property in Goodrington Close includes a kitchen/diner and living room on the ground floor.

Described as “immaculate”, it has been refurbished and has a garden with decked patio and driveway.

Distinct managing director Sarka Naivertová said: “This is a light and airy home in a quiet and popular residential area of Banbury.”

**Gill Oliver**  
goliver@nqo.com

It is available to let, unfurnished, at £915 per month through Distinct estate agents on 01295 565980 or visit [www.distinctestateagents.co.uk](http://www.distinctestateagents.co.uk)

Ms Naivertová is also the co-founder of Bicester Property Club, which runs networking events for landlords and those thinking about buy to let.

Expert advice in investment, stu-

dent lets, conveyancing and planning are some of the topics covered at monthly meetings.

Ms Naivertová, who launched the club last year, said: “People say they love coming to our meetings because each event offers a room full of shared knowledge, two amazing speakers and it makes a great networking environment.”

Past sessions include talks on immigration checks landlords and agents must make, after new Right to

Rent legislation came into force from February plus commercial property and holiday lets.

Past speakers include Neil Evans, a partner in Marriotts commercial property agency, who specialises in lease renewals, rent reviews and valuations and town planner Linda Wright.

Another speaker is Steve Light of mortgage broker Mortgage-Desk, who offers regular updates on finance and mortgage products.

Ms Naivertová added: “The Property Club is for people who want to learn how to invest in property, as well as experienced landlords who want to find out about new opportunities.”

The club meets from 6pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Bignell Park Hotel, tickets cost £15.

Sponsors include Banbury-based solicitors Brethertons and Oxfordshire-based accountancy firm Clark Howes.

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email [propertyedit@nqo.com](mailto:propertyedit@nqo.com)







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### Coopers Gate

Martin & Co Banbury are delighted to offer this fantastic two bedroom semi-detached property for sale in a sought after location within Banbury. The property comprises; Lounge, kitchen / Diner, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. Outside boasts a generous enclosed and private rear garden with gated access to off road parking and a single garage. Viewing is highly recommended.

**Asking Price Of 220,000**

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT



SIMILAR REQUIRED

### Cranleigh Close

Martin & Co Banbury are delighted to offer to the market this very well presented spacious two bedroom detached bungalow situated in a sought after location within Banbury. The living accommodation comprises; Lounge, Kitchen / Diner, Sun room, Master bedroom benefitting from fitted wardrobes and television point, further double bedroom / dining room and family bathroom with separate toilet. Outside boasts a private and enclosed low maintenance rear garden with access to a single garage and off road parking for three vehicles. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate this truly excellent property.

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### Rosemary Drive

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**Asking Price Of £175,000**

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INVESTMENT

### Rosemary Drive

Martin & Co are delighted to offer to the market this Two double bedroom Ground floor apartment situated in the very sought after Hanwell Fields development. Viewing is highly recommended. Cal 01295 701773

**Asking Price Of £170,000**

SOLD SUBJECT TO CONTRACT



SIMILAR REQUIRED

### Padbury Drive

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this spacious two bedroom apartment comprising; one en-suite, living / dining room, kitchen and bathroom with an allocated parking space to the rear. The property is situated within easy walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property would be an ideal purchase for a first time buyer or investor.EPC - D

**Asking Price Of 160,000**

SOLD



Similar Required

### Kings Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this ground floor flat comprising of a; lounge, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property is within close proximity to local amenities, town centre and it is also offered with no onward chain, off road parking and it's own entrance. It is an ideal investment opportunity. This property will have a renewed lease on completion.

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# MARTIN&CO

## LETTINGS

Lettings • Sales • Investment



### Thyme Close

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market three bedroom detached house with enclosed garden and 2 allocated parking spaces. The property is situated in the popular Hanwell Fields estate. The property is available unfurnished from 21st April 2016. Book your viewing now!

**£975pcm**



### The Moors Drive

This is a new to the market three bedroom spacious bungalow with driveway parking and large garden situated in the village of Middleton Cheney. Available unfurnished. Book your viewing now.

**£950pcm**



### Kilbale Crescent

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market ground floor one bedroom apartment with off road parking and conveniently situated within walking distance to the town centre. The property comprises a separate kitchen with cooker and washing machine included; good size lounge and bedroom. Available in April unfurnished. EPC - D

**£625pcm**



### School End

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this charming, well presented two bedroom terraced property available mid May in the heart of Aynho village. The property comprises of living room and newly fitted kitchen. From the first floor landing there are two bedrooms and a newly fitted bathroom. Off road parking. Closely located to Banbury and Bicester. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Padbury Drive

Martin and Co are pleased to present, this spacious two bedroom flat with close proximity to both Banbury town centre and train station. The spacious living accommodation comprises; Two double bedrooms, Master with on-suite, Kitchen, Lounge. This property benefits from allocated parking, and available unfurnished. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Dashwood Rise

Martin and Co Banbury, are pleased to present, this charming two bedroom bungalow in the sort after village of Duns Tew. The property comprises; two double bedrooms, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, and enclosed rear garden. Viewing comes highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC - D

**£795pcm**



### Hillside Close

This is a super three bedroom semi detached house in the Cherwell Heights area of Banbury. Entrance hall leads to good size lounge and spacious kitchen overlooking the enclosed rear garden mainly laid to lawn. Upstairs there are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property is available unfurnished with washing machine. EPC - C

**£895pcm**



### Middleton Road

Martin and Co Banbury are delighted to offer to the market, this two bedroom apartment, within walking distance to the town centre and train station. The property comprises; two double bedrooms, kitchen/lounge, bathroom with shower over bath. EPC - B

**£775pcm**



### Middleton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to offer this modern two bedroom apartment within walking distance to the town and the train station. The property comprises: fully fitted kitchen and open plan living room. There are two bedrooms and a bathroom with bath and shower. There is also parking at the rear of the property.

**£750pcm**



### Causeway

Martin and Co Banbury are pleased to offer this two bedroom mid terrace property, with close proximity to train station and town centre. The property comprises; kitchen, lounge, bathroom, two bedrooms. There is on road parking, and a small garden to the rear of the property. Suitable for single or professional couple. EPC - C

**£795pcm**



### Broughton Road

Martin & Co are pleased to present this two bedroom refurbished end of terrace property with enclosed rear garden. Located close proximity to the town centre, and walking distance to the train station. The property comprises: kitchen; living room; dining room; two bedrooms and bathroom. This property is available unfurnished. EPC - E

**£875pcm**



### Valley Road

A large three bedroom house available soon. The property benefits from a fully fitted kitchen with washing machine; fridge freezer and cooker. Gas central heating. There is also a games room / study available. Conservatory and enclosed garden with a shed. Book your viewing now! Close to the hospital and walking distance to the town centre and train station too. EPC - C

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### Flat 3

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